

**Amendment to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for serving executable application programs over a computer network from an application server system to a target computer having ~~an operating system executing in a first session~~ a helper application provided by the application server system, the method comprising:

~~the target computer~~ signaling the application server system with a request for an application program;

receiving the application server system responding to the request by transferring an application descriptor from the application server system in response to the request ~~to the target computer;~~

executing the application descriptor being read by a helper application in response to the received application descriptor; ~~executing on the target computer, the helper application~~

~~determining, by the helper application, from the application descriptor a configuration required by to allow the target computer to execute the requested application program as a function of the application descriptor; and~~

~~the helper application~~ controlling, by the helper application, the execution of target computer to execute the application program on the target computer, the application program residing on the application server system, the helper application using said implementing the configuration on the target computer, whereby wherein portions of the application program are retrieved and executed ~~without an installation of from the application server without an installation of~~ the application program on the target computer ~~and wherein the operating system continues to execute in the first session without a reboot and restart of the operating system of the target computer;~~ and

removing, by the helper application, the retrieved and executed portions of the application program from the target computer in response to termination of the application program on the target computer.

Claims 2-48 (canceled).

Claim 49. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

terminating, by the helper application, the application program when the helper application determines a connection to the application server system is no longer active.

Claim 50. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the signaling further comprises:

selecting a link by a user of the target computer, said link displayed by a browser executing on the target computer, and said link associated with the application program.

Claim 51. (new) The method of claim 50, wherein the link includes an application identifier for identifying the requested application program to the application server system.

Claim 52. (new) The method of claim 50, wherein the link points the browser to the application server system.

Claim 53. (new) The method of claim 50, wherein selecting the link comprises triggering the downloading of the application descriptor from the application server system to the target computer.

Claim 54. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the received application descriptor is encrypted.

Claim 55. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the helper application includes a graphical user interface for displaying advertisements.

Claim 56. (new) A The method of claim 1, further comprising:

issuing, by the helper application, a command to a browser to display a follow-up page in response to termination of the application program.

Claim 57. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the application descriptor includes minimum system requirements information for determining the availability of adequate system resources on the target computer for execution of the application program.

Claim 58. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the application descriptor includes transaction mode information.

Claim 59. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
attaching, by the target computer, to a host computer to receive the application program wherein the application descriptor includes application server information including a host address of said host computer.

Claim 60. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
attaching, by the target computer, to a host computer to receive an advertisement wherein the application descriptor includes application server information including a host address of said host computer.

Claim 61. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
sending, by the helper application executing on the target computer, error log information to a failure server of the application server system in response to improper operation of the application program on the target computer.

Claim 62. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
mounting, by the target computer, a remote drive of the application server system, said remote drive providing access to the application program.

Claim 63. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
accessing, by the target computer, the application server system via port 80.

Claim 64. (new) A method for serving executable application programs over a computer network from an application server system to a target computer, the method comprising:  
transferring a helper application to the target computer, said helper application executing on the target computer;  
receiving a request for an application program from the target computer;

sending an application descriptor to the target computer in response to the received request wherein the helper application determines a configuration to allow the target computer to execute the requested application program as a function of said application descriptor, and wherein the helper application controls execution of the application program on the target computer as the application program is residing on the application server system, the helper application implementing the configuration on the target computer, wherein portions of the application program are retrieved and executed on the target computer without an installation of the application program on the target computer; and

tracking a status of the execution of the application program on the target computer.

Claim 65. (new) The method of claim 64, wherein the application descriptor includes application server information including one or more host addresses, each host address corresponding to a host computer and wherein the application server system comprises of two or more host computers, the target computer attaching to a first host computer indicated by a first host address included in the application server information to receive the application program portions.

Claim 66. (new) The method of claim 65, wherein the first host computer is selected to load-balance across the two or more host computers of the application server system.

Claim 67. (new) The method of claim 65, wherein the target computer attaches to a second host computer to receive an advertisement.

Claim 68. (new) A method as described in claim 64, further comprising:

sending, by the helper application executing on the target computer, error log information to a failure server of the application server system in response to improper operation of the application program on the target computer.

Claim 69. (new) An application serving system configured to operate across a computer network, the system comprising:

an application server configured to execute computer-executable instructions for:

transferring a helper application to a target computer, said helper application executing on the target computer;

receiving a request for an application program from the target computer;

sending an application descriptor to the target computer in response to the received request wherein the helper application determines a configuration that will allow the target computer to execute the requested application program as a function of said application descriptor, and wherein the helper application controls execution of the application program on the target computer, the application program residing on the application server system, the helper application implementing the configuration on the target computer, wherein portions of the application program are retrieved and executed without an installation of the application program on the target computer; and

tracking a status of the execution of the application program on the target computer; and

a target computer executing the helper application transferred by the application server configured to execute computer-executable instructions for:

signaling the application server system with the request for the application program;

receiving the application descriptor from the application server in response to the request;

executing the helper application in response to the received application descriptor;

determining, by the helper application, the configuration required by the target computer to execute the requested application program as a function of the application descriptor;

controlling, by the helper application, the execution of the application program on the target computer, the application program residing on the application server system, the helper application implementing the configuration on the target computer, wherein portions of the application program are retrieved and executed without an installation of the application program on the target computer; and

removing, by the helper application, the retrieved and executed portions of the application program from the target computer in response to the termination of the application program on the target computer.

Claim 70. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the application server provides an update to the helper application of the target computer in response to the received request for the application program.

Claim 71. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the helper application validates the status of a firewall proxy to allow streaming of the application program elements from the application server to the target computer.

Claim 72. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein receiving the application program elements comprises receiving streaming data including the application program elements.

Claim 73. (new) An application serving system configured to operate across a computer network, the system comprising:

- an application server configured to execute computer-executable instructions for:

- transferring a helper application to a target computer, said helper application configured to execute on the target computer;

- receiving a request for an application program from the target computer;

- sending an application descriptor to the target computer in response to the received request;

- sending to the helper application on the target computer a configuration to enable the target computer to execute the requested application program as a function of said application descriptor; and

- sending portions of the application program to the target computer in accordance with communications from the helper application as it controls execution of the application program on the target computer as configured based on the sent configuration, the application program residing on the application server system, wherein the portions of the application program are transmitted for execution without an installation of the application program on the target computer.